
PROJECT: REHMAT

REPORT

**Stray Dog Feeding Drive on account of
International Day for Dogs**

4th and 5th September, 2021

ABSTRACT: This event was conducted by
Volunteer, Legal Aid Centre, and S.L.S. Noida.

Firstly, the members of the LAC were made aware of the food items that can be and cannot be fed, along with guidelines on how to practice safe feeding, that are laid down by AWBI and The Hon'ble High Court Of Delhi. It was also ensured that the students are aware of dog friendly behaviour and cause no harm to either themselves or the dogs. The drive was then conducted on 4th and 5th of September, 2021.

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REPORT- INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DOGS, 2021

“Project: REHMAT”

1. Concept Note

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA conducts various awareness programs to sensitize the society towards a plethora of legal and social issues. As an extension of such initiatives the volunteers at Legal Aid Centre conducted a two-day food drive for stray dogs in their respective vicinities on 4th and 5th September 2021 on account of the International Day for Dogs celebrated on 26th August 2021.

There is a prevalent debate today that revolves around the idea of feeding dogs which comes under a welfare idea or leads to menace. Amidst these human rivalries, the innocent animals bear the wrath of hunger. Dogs in our neighbourhoods have no continuous and definite sources of food. They mostly tend to rely on waste leftovers found in overflowing dustbins which is indeed harmful for them and not a guaranteed source of food for survival. Considering this to be an issue which students can work at a personal level, a drive was undertaken wherein healthy and nutritious food was provided in a friendly manner to neighbourhood dogs to alleviate their daily misery of hunger pangs.

2. Objectives :

The main objective of the Legal Aid Centre of SLS-N was to create awareness and motivate the members of the cell, to start taking care of the strays near their vicinity. The project was conducted not only to make sure that the stray dogs are fed once, but also to make the members aware of various nuances of dog feeding, so that it can be easily carried out in the future as well. It was expected out of the members that once they are aware, they will further make others aware of the same. Therefore, the main objectives were:

- a) To make the members aware of “What can be fed to the dogs”
- b) To make them aware about “What cannot be fed to the dogs”.
- c) To make them aware about “Guidelines laid down by The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi”.
- d) To carry out a safe and memorable drive for both members and the dogs.

3. Preliminary Preparations :

Before conducting the event a few important preparations were made :

- a) The guidelines for feeding stray dogs, laid down by The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi were read thoroughly and explained to the members carrying out the drive.
- b) List of food items that can be fed and that can be harmful to the dogs as per PETA guidelines was provided to the members.
- c) Gathering support from the Legal Aid Centre to ensure maximum participation from volunteers. Dividing work between the one who signed up, sharing my vision for the event with them and devising a pedagogy.
- d) Taking suggestions from other members of the LAC and working on their inputs to make the session as fruitful as possible.

4. Conducting the programme :

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the members were asked to carry out the drive in their neighbourhood. I made sure that while drafting the proposal, all guidelines should be provided so that no confusion is caused. Therefore, PETA guidelines on what can be and cannot be fed to the dogs and guidelines on safe feeding practices laid down by The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi were read by me and attached with the proposal as given below:

➤ What can be fed?

1. **Roti, rice, boiling potatoes, vegetable oil/ghee:** Easily available and most nourishing meal for stray dogs and humans both. Make sure to mince the chapattis well so that they are easier to digest. A pinch of Turmeric (Haldi) makes it healthier and tastier for the dogs.
2. **Store-bought dog food:** This is another option for stray dogs along with canned dog food and packed meals. This can be served either soaked in water or with boiled rice.
3. **Fruits:** Except for grapes and raisins, most fruit is OK for your dog, including these types: Apples (without the seeds), Bananas, Blueberries and other berries, Cantaloupe, Oranges, Watermelon.
4. **Ice Creams and Ice pops:** During summers, dogs can eat ice creams or home frozen ice pops (without sugar) to beat the heat. Ice cream can be given one cup once a week.

5. **Water:** Water is a life essential for any living being. Make sure the water bottles or containers used are clean the water is changed regularly and is placed at a clean and hygienic area, easily accessible to the dogs.

➤ **What cannot be fed?**

1. **Bread Doughs:** The live yeast in bread dough may cause dogs' and cats' stomachs to expand, a painful condition known as "bloat" that can be fatal if not treated quickly.
2. **Chocolates:** Chocolate contains caffeine and a chemical called "theobromine," which are both harmful to dogs and cats and can even be fatal.
3. **Grapes and Raisins:** They can cause vomiting, diarrhoea or even acute kidney failure.
4. **Onion or Garlic:** Onions, garlic, and other foods in the Allium family (think shallots and scallions) can damage our animal companions' red blood cells, which can cause bloody urine and severe anemia, as well as gastroenteritis (stomach flu).

➤ **Links to tutorials for making simple dog friendly cakes:**

1. [Dog Birthday Cake | Naturally, Danny Seo](#)
2. [Easy Peanut Butter Dog Cake Recipe](#)

GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE FEEDING PRACTICES

As per the [AWBI Guidelines](#) and the guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in [Citizen for the welfare and protection of Animals and Anr. v. State and Anr.](#), the members should keep the following practices in mind while carrying out the food drive:

- Try to keep the food on a newspaper or a disposable container and not directly on the road, once the dogs are done eating make sure you throw away the garbage.
- Ask someone to accompany you for photos. The learners who are scared or not very fond of dogs can seek the help of security guards or any other person.
- Try to keep a safe distance from the dogs while they eat and do not disturb them while eating.
- Do not pet them while you have food in hand because they will want to smell or take away the food and might end up hurting the feeder.
- Once you start feeding, be regular. The dogs will get used to the feeding at a particular spot and breaking the habit can be disturbing for them as they will wait for you for the food and not look for it on their own.
- Do not regularly pet the dogs. They will get used to human touch and will become extremely friendly, the dog may leap on an unsuspecting person looking for attention, and if that person does not like dogs, the dog may scare that person.
- If you are not well acquainted with the dogs around your vicinity, keep the food first and call them later, once you are at a distance from the food.

- Dogs are territorial by nature, and this is especially true with stray dogs who tend to congregate in a location they deem ideal for resting. Feeding one pack too near to another could result in unwelcome hostile encounters between the two. Do not keep all the food at one place, it might cause a fight between the dogs, and some might not be able to eat it. Therefore, divide the food and keep them apart.
- Keep the food on footpaths or away from the road to avoid the dogs from getting hurt by traffic.

5. Key personal takeaway -

The feeling of being able to provide for another other than ourselves was an extremely rewarding and humbling experience. Several problems including unavailability of proper quality of food and genuine respect that is not shown towards dogs came to light and were very saddening.

It takes just a few minutes to reach out to dogs in our communities and feed them healthy food, it might be a small task for us but for them it becomes a vital means for survival which we can positively contribute towards.

6. Future Plan of Action -

Considering how stray dogs struggle a lot day in and day out to find basic food to survive and to not much, the members of Legal Aid Centre, Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA Have undertaken the task of regularly feeding the stray dogs in their vicinity to ensure their good health and well-being. Dogs are very quick to understand where they will be given food and by who and hence taking that practice into account members will at the same time give nutritious food to these dogs in the future as well.

7. Suggestions/Feedback –

It often happens that an activity is started but is not continued with regularity however in this case it is at most important to feed the stray dogs regularly in order to ensure they get food timely and not fall prey to hunger pangs. It should be ensured that no food that can cause any kind of harm to the animals is given to them at any cost. One must properly read about what is suitable to give as food and only after proper consultation give it to them on a daily basis. The members of LAC can discuss among themselves ways to feed dogs and behaviour that should be followed around them.

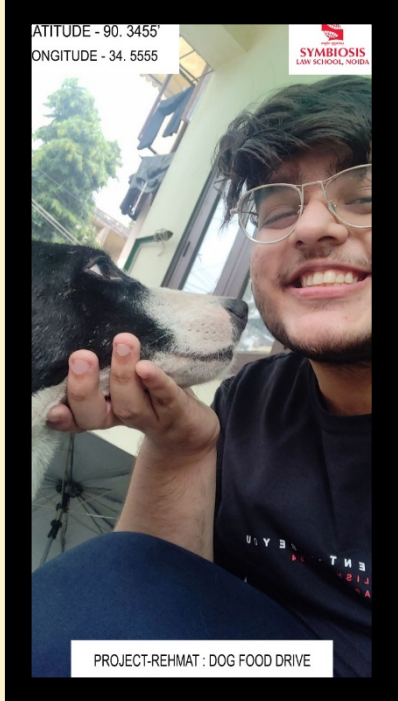
8. Conclusion/Remarks -

This was a great learning experience. It inculcated values of empathy in the members that took part in this food drive for stray dogs. As law students we understand the legal limitations of animal laws and rights and look at this activity as a great and small way to contribute on a personal level to bridge the gap of the same.

Annexure- Photographs







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